

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 FMC-01 L-03 TRSE-00

AID-05 /033 W

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R 230847Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4327

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 5612

ALSO FOR FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, EWWT, RP

SUBJECT: CIVAIR--GOP DECREES ON AIR PREFERENCES

REF: STATE 088804 AND MANILA 5406

1. DURING COURSE OF COURTESY CALL ON PHILCAB EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PACIFICO V. AGCAOLI ON APRIL 22, E/C COUNSELOR ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 894 ON CIVIL AIR PREFERENCES. POINTING OUT BROAD NATURE OF DECREE, E/C COUNSELOR RAISED SPECIFIC EXAMPLE OF ITS APPLICABILITY TO INTERNATIONAL RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE WHICH GOP TAX EXEMPT AND SUPPORTED BUT ALSO ASSISTED MATERIALLY BY USAID.

2. AGCAOLLI READILY ACKNOWLEDGED BROAD AND SWEEPING NATURE OF THE DECREE WHICH HE INTIMATED HAD NOT BEEN CLEARED WITH PHILCAB AND HAD BEEN DRAFTED BY "ITS PRINCIPAL BENEFICIARY" (READ PAL, SEE MANILA 3928). THEREFORE AN INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE, INCLUDING PHILCAB AND MARINA REPRESENTATIVES, IS NOW REVIEWING THE DECREE AND ITS APPLICABILITY. AGCAOILI SAID THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD WELCOME ANY VIEWS OR QUESTIONS, AND THAT THE EMBASSY COULD SUBMIT THEM INFORMALLY THROUGH HIM.

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3. WE READILY ACCEPTED HIS OFFER AND PER DEPTTEL SAID WE WISHED TO AVOID A SITUATION IN WHICH THE INDISCRIMINATE IMPLEMENTATION OF PD 894 WOULD RESULT IN A SITUATION WHICH MIGHT REQUIRE USG COUNTERMEASURES. WE ARE CONSULTING WITH INDUSTRY SOURCES AND WILL BE SENDING AN INFORMAL LETTER TO AGCAOILI NEXT WEEK. ACTION REQUESTED. IF USCAB OR THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY VIEWS WHICH SHOULD BE SUBMITTED, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. REGARDING THE "OPEN SKIES" PROPOSAL (ANENT PARA THREE DEPTTEL), AGCAOILI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT LIBERALIZATION IS REQUIRED FOR BURGEONING HOTEL CAPACITY BUT INTIMATED THAT IT WOULD BE LIMITED TO CHARTERS (AS FAR AS THE UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED). HE MENTIONED THE USCAB CHARTER AUTHORIZATION OF AIR MANILA ANDPHILCAB'S SIMILAR ACTION FOR WORLD AIRWAYS IN THE FACE OF DETERMINED PAL OPPOSITION. AS FOR ADDITIONAL FREQUENCIES FOR U.S. SCHEDULED CARRIERS, AGCAOILI SPECIFIED THAT THE TRADEOFF WOULD BE RIGHTS TO GUAM AND ELIMINATION OF THE HONOLULU STOPOVER.
SULLIVAN

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